

Ms. Hawthorne's achievements in education are endless. In September 2001, Ms. Hawthorne was selected by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to serve as an Assessor for new principals. In January 2003, President Bush and Secretary of Education Rod Paige honored Ms. Hawthorne at The White House upon her selection as one of the top eight principals in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Ann Hawthorne is a product of the New York education system and a true inspiration to the community around her. She continues to work to improve education in New York and for that I ask that we recognize and give thanks to Mary Ann Hawthorne for her wonderful contribution to our community.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Ann Hawthorne selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

Mr. Speaker, please join our community in honoring Mary Ann Hawthorne for her dedication and outstanding service to our community.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR AS OFFERED BY TERRY C. PLAUCH OF MOBILE, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, last week one of my constituents, Terry C. Plauch, submitted a letter to the Mobile Register offering a theory regarding Vice President Cheney's recent hunting accident.

Conspiracy theories are not new to Washington, D.C. From the conspiracies surrounding the assassinations of both Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy, to the Watergate break-in, almost every event in this town elicits its own conspiracy theory. Today, I rise to ask that this letter be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in its entirety for I believe Terry Plauch may be on to something:

Some facts on the Cheney conspiracy:

I have been fascinated with the conspiracy theories about the recent Dick Cheney hunting incident. Although I thought most of them foolish, I decided to find out if any were valid.

After careful research, I have discovered some interesting facts the media either didn't learn or were too scared to report. It turns out these facts prove that conspiracy was involved in the Texas story.

The first fact relates to the prey involved. I found that the birds being hunted, quail and pheasant, have strong political histories. It is no coincidence "quail" just happens to sound like the name of the first Bush vice president, Dan Quayle. And what was one of the main topics the media criticized Bush/Quayle about? They were deaf to the poor, the downtrodden. In other words, the peasants.

It is no coincidence that "peasant" sounds like "pheasant." In fact, the words are only one "h" away from each other. And what is the difference between President George W. Bush and his father, George H.W. Bush? It is a single "h," although capitalized. A happenstance? I think not.

Another interesting fact is that Cheney used a 20-gauge shotgun instead of the more common 12-gauge. So what? It is no coincidence that the difference between the two

gauges is eight, the number of years Bush and Cheney will be in office. A happenstance? I think not.

I have therefore concluded from my research that the shooting was self-defense. Here's what happened: Cheney's intelligence brief stated that birds fly as their primary means of transportation. Knowing that they had to fly to get to the ranch where the hunt was scheduled, Mr. Cheney concluded that the birds flew to the ranch. Now, "flew" sounds like "flu." That's right, the deadly Asian bird flu.

The vice president, former head of Halliburton, knew that if the birds recognized him, they would attack, trying to get revenge for their name sounding like Dan Quayle's. He would then be infected. So when he saw the birds, the self-preservation reflex took over, I and he started shooting anything that flew his way. His lawyer friend, however, started shooting the birds just for a meal. And in his hunger, he stepped into Cheney's arc of fire and became the victim. So Cheney protected himself, and his friend missed lunch.

In conclusion, I must mention the fact that Dick Cheney ran Halliburton. It is no coincidence that the two people the company was named for, Halle Berry and Richard Burton, have ties to the vice president.

Halle Berry played Catwoman in the movies. Cats, as you know, are sworn enemies of birds, both quail and pheasant.

And Richard Burton was married to Elizabeth Taylor. So what? Well, Vice President Dick Cheney happens to be the only person of his generation in the United States who has not been married to Elizabeth Taylor.

A happenstance? I think not.

TERRY C. PLAUCH.

RECOGNIZING THE LAKE OSWEGO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM AS OREGON 4A STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Lake Oswego High School boys' basketball team as Oregon State 4A champions. Capping a storybook season, the Lakers brought home the state title for the first time ever.

The Lakers started strong this season, and never let up. They won 26 games to only 3 losses and were ranked No. 2 going into the championship game on Saturday, where they faced off against the No. 1 South Medford Panthers. Like every good championship game, this one came down to the final seconds with Lake Oswego winning 59–57.

This successful season for the Lakers was more than just the sum of their skill and talent. The team and coaches played all year with heart, desire, and the confidence that they could win it all. Congratulations to Coach Mark Shoff, the players, their families and friends, and the community who cheered them on throughout the season. I am proud to represent this team and its supporters in Congress, and will close with this:

Go Lakers!

HONORING DICK KAY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of my friend, Mr. Dick Kay, political editor, and host of the news show "City Desk." Mr. Kay will retire in June, 2006, with the honor of having been the longest-serving reporter in the history of Chicago's WMAQ—Channel 5 TV.

With 46 years in the business, Dick Kay has unparalleled political experience, knowledge and perspective. He arrived at WMAQ—Channel 5 in 1968, initially working as a writer/producer but soon switching to reporting. He later became their political editor as well as the host of "City Desk," the Sunday morning public service program.

Over the years, Dick Kay has interviewed mayors, governors, Congressmen, Senators, and countless other public leaders. Viewers have come to rely on his thoughtful yet fearless approach to covering politics and public policy.

Dick Kay's hard work and insightful reporting have been recognized by numerous awards over the years. Among others, Dick has received a Peabody Award—the highest honor in TV broadcasting—as well as 11 Emmys, a National Headliner award, and a Jacob Scher award for investigative reporting. In 2001, he was inducted into the Television Academy's Silver Circle Hall of Fame, which honors those who have made major contributions to Chicago broadcasting for 25 years or more.

In addition to his work as a reporter and editor, Dick was the long-time president of the local unit of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. In this capacity, Dick successfully persuaded Illinois legislators to ensure that on-air employees had the freedom to move to competing stations.

I am sure Dick's wife, children and grandchildren will be glad to enjoy more time with him. The rest of us will miss his hard-hitting investigative work, insightful commentary, and engaging Sunday morning discussions.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dick and his family the best of luck during his retirement and throughout his future endeavors. Political reporting in Chicago will not be the same without Dick Kay, dean of Chicago political reporters.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JAY W. JEFFERS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jay W. Jeffers for his career as a teacher. Jay will be honored next week on Tuesday, March 21, at the dedication of Jay W. Jeffers Elementary School, which is named in his honor.

Born in Milford, UT, on May 7, 1921, he grew up along the railroad, the son of a locomotive engineer. In 1939, he graduated from Milford High School where he participated in extracurricular activities such as the yearbook,